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Summary record of the 47th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 24 May 2004, at 10.20 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Kmoníček ..... (Czech Republic)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Kuznetsov

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 168: Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (A/58/800 and A/58/809)

Agenda item 140: Financing of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (A/58/795 and A/58/809)

1. **Ms. Pollard** (Director of the Peacekeeping Financing Division), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the interim budget for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti for the period from 1 May to 31 December 2004 (A/58/800), said that, in its resolution 1542 (2004), the Security Council had decided to establish the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) for an initial period of six months and had requested that authority should be transferred to MINUSTAH from the Multinational Interim Force on 1 June 2004. Paragraph 10 of that resolution had authorized the Secretary-General to take all necessary steps to facilitate and support the early deployment of MINUSTAH in advance of the United Nations assumption of responsibilities from the Multinational Interim Force.

2. Pending the submission of a full budget to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, the interim budget currently before the Committee reflected the preliminary financial requirements for the periods 1 May to 30 June 2004 and 1 July to 31 December 2004, amounting to $49,259,800 and $215,552,000, respectively. In the absence of results-based frameworks, section II of the report provided details of a number of key support outputs that would be delivered during the budget period. The interim budget provided for the deployment of 6,700 military personnel, 1,622 civilian police officers, including 750 officers in formed units, and up to 1,697 civilian personnel.

3. Paragraph 28 of the report outlined the actions to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of MINUSTAH, including the establishment of a special account and the appropriation and assessment of the amounts requested for the periods 1 May to 30 June 2004 and 1 July to 31 December 2004.

4. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the interim budget for the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2004 (A/58/795), she recalled that, in its resolution 1543 (2004), the Security Council had decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) for a period of six months, with a view to subsequently extending the mandate for a further and final period of six months, until 20 May 2005.

5. The interim budget currently before the Committee reflected the preliminary financial requirements for the maintenance of the Mission. Pending the finalization of its results-based frameworks, UNMISET planned to deliver a number of support outputs during the budget period, which were set out in section II of the report. The Mission would include 42 military liaison officers, 310 formed troops and a 125-person International Response Unit, 157 police advisers, 58 civilian advisers and civilian personnel comprising 278 international staff, 614 national staff and 144 United Nations Volunteers. During the budget period, the Mission would utilize assets acquired during prior financial periods and continue disposal of assets no longer required.

6. Paragraph 27 of the report outlined the actions to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of UNMISET, namely, the appropriation and assessment of $45,728,400.

7. **Mr. Kuznetsov** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the interim budget for the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2004 and the interim budget for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti for the period from 1 May to 31 December 2004 (A/58/809), said that, given the Committee's difficulties with the concept of interim budgets, it intended to give serious thought to, inter alia, possible refinements to General Assembly resolution 49/233, in order to better address the consequences of the simultaneous organization of several large and complex missions for their planning, budgeting and legislative consideration.

8. Owing to time constraints, the Advisory Committee had been unable to conduct a detailed examination of the interim budgets and was therefore

recommending that the General Assembly should approve commitment authority with assessment for MINUSTAH and UNMISET in the amounts set out in paragraph 5 of the report. Those recommendations were without prejudice to any decision that the General Assembly might take on the administrative structure of the Missions, their staffing tables and operational requirements when it considered the full budgets in the autumn. In that connection, paragraphs 8 and 9 of the report highlighted a number of the specific concerns that should be addressed in the budget proposals to be submitted at that time.

9. **Ms. Bethel** (Bahamas), speaking also on behalf of thirteen members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), namely, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago, recalled that, on 26 February 2004, the Foreign Ministers of the Bahamas and Jamaica had addressed the Security Council on the situation of Haiti, since it had become clear that law and order in that country had broken down. Concerns remained about the human rights situation in Haiti, as the insecure environment was exacerbated by the existence of numerous armed gangs, many of which exercised effective control over large sections of Haitian territory. Disarmament must therefore be a priority.

10. While welcoming the establishment of MINUSTAH, in particular the multidimensional nature of the Mission, she cautioned that, in order to fulfil its mandate and in light of the challenging security situation in Haiti, it would require sufficient capacity both to deal with security threats and to set the stage for Haiti's long-term development. It was unfortunate that time constraints did not allow for a detailed examination of the financial requirements of the Mission at the current stage, but Member States were nevertheless urged to provide MINUSTAH with sufficient resources to successfully carry out all of its mandated activities.

11. **Ms. Goicochea** (Cuba) noted with concern the absence of detailed budget estimates for MINUSTAH and UNMISET. While the lack of specific information was understandable in respect of MINUSTAH, which had only just been established, the Secretariat should explain why it had been unable to present a fully justified budget proposal for UNMISET. Additional information should also be provided on the International Response Unit referred to in the summary of the interim budget for UNMISET.

12. Her delegation fully endorsed the comments made by the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 2 and 8 of its report and hoped that they would be taken into account by the Secretariat when it drafted the next set of budget proposals for the Missions in question. Although interim budgets had been submitted on previous occasions, the practice should not be encouraged, particularly where large sums of money were involved. The documents at issue did not provide sufficient information to enable the Committee to make informed decisions about the requested requirements, and while Cuba was willing to approve the appropriations necessary for the functioning of the two Missions, it was not prepared to endorse the proposed staffing tables, since the posts described were of an entirely provisional nature.

13. **Mr. Dutton** (Australia) reiterated Australia's support for the exemplary work carried out by UNMISET in Timor-Leste and welcomed the extension of its mandate, which would allow for the consolidation of that work. He supported the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee, which would ensure that UNMISET had sufficient resources to operate until the fully justified budget documents were submitted and approved. However, he observed that those recommendations covered only the period from July to October 2004 and inquired whether any financing arrangements were envisaged for November and December 2004.

14. **Mr. Abelian** (Secretary of the Committee), in response to the question posed by the representative of Australia, said that, should the General Assembly approve the recommendations contained in paragraph 5 of the report of the ACABQ, the Fifth Committee would take up the relevant budgets at the beginning of the Assembly's fifty-ninth session in order to ensure that the additional requirements for November and December were discussed and approved.

15. **Ms. Samayoa-Recari** (Guatemala) endorsed the comments made by the representative of the Bahamas.

16. **Mr. Agyeman** (Ghana) endorsed the comments made by the representative of the Bahamas and expressed the hope that the United Nations would take the necessary steps to ensure that Haiti could pursue its development in a climate of peace and security. He would be grateful for more information regarding the

financial requirements for UNMISET for the period ending 31 December 2004.

17. **Ms. Wahab** (Indonesia) welcomed the extension of the mandate of UNMISET, in particular its emphasis on capacity-building. She hoped that the Secretariat would provide written replies to the various questions posed.

18. **Mr. Kozaki** (Japan) said that he supported the extension of the mandate of UNMISET. He had taken note of the concerns expressed by ACABQ in paragraph 8 of its report and hoped that they would be taken up at the Assembly's fifty-ninth session.

19. **Ms. Pollard** (Director of the Peacekeeping Financing Division), responding to the questions posed by various delegations said that the Secretariat had faced considerable time constraints when preparing tne budget documents currently before the Committee and had therefore been unable to submit more detailed proposals. However, the submission of interim budgets was not an attempt to circumvent the comprehensive budgetary process, but rather an effort to provide the relevant legislative bodies with more information than had previously been available in similar situations. The comments made by ACABQ in paragraph 8 of its report would certainly be taken into account by the Secretariat during the preparation of the full budget proposals in the autumn.

20. Replying to the question concerning the International Response Unit posed by the representative of Cuba, she said the Unit, which was composed of 125 gendarmes, would respond to major security threats exceeding the capacity of the national security forces in Timor-Leste. A more detailed description of its functions was contained in paragraphs 51 and 53 of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (S/2004/333). For the purposes of the budget and reimbursement to Member States, the contingents making up the Unit were regarded as troops.

21. **Mr. Ramlal** (Trinidad and Tobago) said that he was satisfied with the Secretariat's explanation of why it had been unable to submit full budget proposals for the Missions in question. However, he hoped that the Committee would be in a position to take a decision on the financing of MINUSTAH before 31 October 2004 to ensure that the work of the Mission would not be jeopardized.

The meeting rose at 10.55 a.m.